

U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service

# Malheur

*National Wildlife Refuge*

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*Watchable Wildlife*



## Birds of Malheur National Wildlife Refuge

Malheur National Wildlife Refuge was originally set aside by President Theodore Roosevelt in 1908 to protect nesting egrets and other waterbirds from unregulated plume hunting. Today, Malheur is one of the crown jewels of the National Wildlife Refuge System—a network of lands set aside specifically for wildlife.

Malheur is famous for its tremendous diversity and spectacular concentrations of wildlife. Hot spots include the Refuge Headquarters in spring and fall for songbirds; the P Ranch CCC lookout tower for roosting vultures during summer; staging sandhill cranes in the Blitzen River Valley in September; and thousands of white geese, swans and sandhill cranes in the Silvies River floodplain in February and November.

Early morning and late evening are the best times to observe wildlife. The abundance of species varies by the seasons, as you will see by the list that follows. We hope you enjoy your birding experience at Malheur!

### Season Symbols

- Sp - Spring (March through May)
- S - Summer (June through August)
- F - Fall (September through November)
- W - Winter (December through February)

### Species Abundance Symbols

- a - Abundant; among the most commonly seen birds on the Refuge
- c - Common; Certain to be seen in appropriate habitat
- u - Uncommon; birdwatchers will have to be patient, but this bird can usually be seen
- o - Occasional; present in low numbers, a good sighting
- r - Rare; may not be present every year, a great sighting
- \*
- ✓ - Endangered or Threatened

*Red-tailed Hawk.*  
©Ken Morris



*Front cover illustration:*  
*Sandhill Cranes.* ©Ken Morris

# Birds of Malheur NWR

Common Name	Sp	S	F	W
<b>Swans, Geese and Ducks</b>				
Greater White-fronted Goose	u		u	r
Snow Goose	a	r	a	r
Ross's Goose	c		c	
*Canada Goose	a	a	a	a
*Trumpeter Swan	u	u	u	u
Tundra Swan	a	r	a	u
Wood Duck	o	o	o	r
*Gadwall	a	a	a	u
Eurasian Wigeon	r		r	r
*American Wigeon	c	u	c	u
*Mallard	a	a	a	c
*Blue-winged Teal	u	u	o	
*Cinnamon Teal	a	a	c	r
*Northern Shoveler	a	c	a	o
*Northern Pintail	c	u	c	u
*Green-winged Teal	u	u	u	u
*Canvasback	u	u	u	o
*Redhead	c	c	c	o



*Snowy Egret.* Jean Harrison

Common Name	Sp	S	F	W
*Ring-necked Duck	u	r	u	o
Greater Scaup	r		r	
*Lesser Scaup	u	u	u	u
Surf Scoter			r	r
White-winged Scoter	r		r	r
Bufflehead	c	r	c	u
Common Goldeneye	u		u	u
Barrow's Goldeneye	r		o	o
Hooded Merganser	o		o	o
*Common Merganser	c	u	c	u
*Ruddy Duck	c	c	c	o
<b>Gallinaceous Birds</b>				
*Chukar	c	c	c	c
*Gray Partridge	r	r	r	r
*Ring-necked Pheasant	c	c	c	c
*Greater Sage-Grouse	u	u	u	r
*Mountain Quail	r	r	r	r
*California Quail	a	a	a	a
<b>Loons</b>				
Common Loon	o			u
<b>Grebes</b>				
*Pied-billed Grebe	c	c	c	u
*Horned Grebe	u	u	r	
*Eared Grebe	u	u	u	r
*Western Grebe	c	c	c	
*Clark's Grebe	u	u	u	
<b>Pelicans</b>				
*American White Pelican	a	a	a	
<b>Cormorants</b>				
*Double-crested Cormorant	c	c	c	r
<b>Bitterns, Herons and Egrets</b>				
*American Bittern	c	c	c	r
*Least Bittern	r	r		
*Great Blue Heron	c	c	c	u
*Great Egret	c	c	c	
*Snowy Egret	u	u	u	
*Cattle Egret	r	r	r	
Green Heron			r	
*Black-crowned Night-Heron	a	c	c	o

Common Name	Sp	S	F	W
<b>Ibises and Spoonbills</b>				
*White-faced Ibis	a	a	a	
<b>New World Vultures</b>				
*Turkey Vulture	a	a	a	
<b>Osprey, Kites, Hawks and Eagles</b>				
Osprey	u	u	r	
✓Bald Eagle	c	r	u	u
*Northern Harrier	a	a	a	c
Sharp-shinned Hawk	u		u	o
Cooper’s Hawk	u	r	u	u
Northern Goshawk	o		o	o
Red-shouldered Hawk	r	r	r	
*Swainson’s Hawk	u	o	u	
*Red-tailed Hawk	a	a	a	c
*Ferruginous Hawk	o	r	o	o
Rough-legged Hawk	c		c	a
*Golden Eagle	c	c	c	c
<b>Falcons and Caracaras</b>				
*American Kestrel	u	u	u	o
Merlin	o		o	
✓Peregrine Falcon	r	r	r	r
*Prairie Falcon	u	u	u	u
<b>Rails</b>				
*Virginia Rail	c	c	c	
*Sora	a	a	a	
*American Coot	a	a	a	u
<b>Cranes</b>				
*Sandhill Crane	a	c	a	
<b>Plovers</b>				
Black-bellied Plover	u		u	
American Golden-Plover	r		r	
*Snowy Plover	u	u	u	
*Semipalmated Plover	u		u	
*Killdeer	a	a	a	o
<b>Stilts and Avocets</b>				
*Black-necked Stilt	c	c	c	
*American Avocet	c	c	c	

Common Name	Sp	S	F	W
<b>Sandpipers and Phalaropes</b>				
Greater Yellowlegs	c		c	r
Lesser Yellowlegs	o		u	
Solitary Sandpiper	o		o	
*Willet	c	c	c	
*Spotted Sandpiper	u	u	u	
Whimbrel	r			
*Long-billed Curlew	c	c	c	
Marbled Godwit	u		u	
Ruddy Turnstone	r		r	
Sanderling	o		o	
Western Sandpiper	c		c	
Least Sandpiper	c		c	
Baird’s Sandpiper	o		u	
Pectoral Sandpiper	r		u	
Dunlin	u		u	
Stilt Sandpiper			r	
Long-billed Dowitcher	c	u	a	
*Common Snipe	c	c	c	o
*Wilson’s Phalarope	c	c	a	
Red-necked Phalarope	u	o	u	
<b>Skuas, Jaegers, Gulls and Terns</b>				
Parasitic Jaeger			r	
*Franklin’s Gull	c	c	u	
Bonaparte’s Gull	u	r	u	
*Ring-billed Gull	a	c	a	r
*California Gull	c	c	c	
Herring Gull	r		r	r
*Caspian Tern	u	u	u	
Common Tern	r		r	
*Forster’s Tern	a	a	u	
*Black Tern	a	a	u	
<b>Pigeons and Doves</b>				
*Rock Pigeon		o		
Band-tailed Pigeon	o	o	r	
Eurasian Collared Dove	o	o		
*Mourning Dove	c	c	c	
<b>Cuckoos and Anis</b>				
Yellow-billed Cuckoo	r	r		

Common Name	Sp	S	F	W
<b>Barn Owls</b>				
*Barn Owl	o	o	o	o
<b>Typical Owls</b>				
Flammulated Owl	r		r	
*Western Screech-Owl	r	r	r	r
*Great Horned Owl	c	c	c	c
*Burrowing Owl	u	u	u	
*Long-eared Owl	o	o	o	o
*Short-eared Owl	o	o	o	u
Northern Saw-whet Owl	o		o	r
<b>Nightjars</b>				
*Common Nighthawk	a	a	a	
*Common Poorwill	u	u	u	
<b>Swifts</b>				
Vaux's Swift	o		o	
<b>Hummingbirds</b>				
Black-chinned Hummingbird	o	r	u	
Calliope Hummingbird	o	r	u	
Rufous Hummingbird	u	r	c	
<b>Kingfishers</b>				
*Belted Kingfisher	u	u	u	u
<b>Woodpeckers</b>				
Lewis's Woodpecker	u		u	
Williamson's Sapsucker			r	
Red-naped Sapsucker	u		u	
Red-breasted Sapsucker	r		r	
Downy Woodpecker	u		u	u
Hairy Woodpecker	u		u	u
*Northern Flicker	c	c	c	c
<b>Tyrant Flycatchers</b>				
Olive-sided Flycatcher	u		u	
*Western Wood-Pewee	c	r	c	
*Willow Flycatcher	c	c	c	
Least Flycatcher	r	r	r	
Hammond's Flycatcher	r		r	
*Gray Flycatcher	u	u	u	
Dusky Flycatcher	c	r	c	

Common Name	Sp	S	F	W
Cordilleran Flycatcher	u		u	
*Say's Phoebe	c	c	c	
*Ash-throated Flycatcher	u	u	u	
*Western Kingbird	c	c	c	
*Eastern Kingbird	u	u	u	
<b>Shrikes</b>				
*Loggerhead Shrike	u	c	c	u
Northern Shrike	u		u	u
<b>Vireos</b>				
Plumbeous Vireo	r			
Cassin's Vireo	u	o	u	
*Warbling Vireo	c	o	c	
Red-eyed Vireo	r	r	r	
<b>Crows, Jays and Magpies</b>				
Steller's Jay	r		r	r
Blue Jay			r	r
Clark's Nutcracker	r	r	r	r
*Black-billed Magpie	c	c	c	c
*American Crow	c	u	c	o
*Common Raven	a	a	a	a
<b>Larks</b>				
*Horned Lark	u	u	u	c
<b>Swallows</b>				
*Tree Swallow	a	c	a	
*Violet-green Swallow	c	o	c	
*Northern Rough-winged Swallow	u	u	u	
*Bank Swallow	u	u	u	
*Cliff Swallow	a	a	a	
*Barn Swallow	c	c	c	
<b>Titmice and Chickadees</b>				
Black-capped Chickadee	o		o	o
Mountain Chickadee	u		u	u
<b>Bushtits</b>				
*Bushtit	u	o	u	c
<b>Nuthatches</b>				
Red-breasted Nuthatch	u	u	u	
White-breasted Nuthatch	o		o	
Pygmy Nuthatch		r	r	

Common Name	Sp	S	F	W
<b>Creepers</b>				
Brown Creeper	u		u	
<b>Wrens</b>				
*Rock Wren	c	c	c	u
*Canyon Wren	u	u	u	u
*Bewick’s Wren	r	r	r	r
*House Wren	c	u	c	
Winter Wren	u		u	r
*Marsh Wren	a	a	a	u
<b>Dippers</b>				
American Dipper				u
<b>Kinglets</b>				
Golden-crowned Kinglet	u		c	o
Ruby-crowned Kinglet	c		c	o
<b>Old World Warblers</b>				
*Blue-gray Gnatcatcher	r	r		
<b>Thrushes</b>				
Western Bluebird	u		u	
*Mountain Bluebird	u	r	u	o
Townsend’s Solitaire	o		u	u
Veery	r		r	
Swainson’s Thrush	o		r	
Hermit Thrush	u		u	
*American Robin	a	c	a	u
Varied Thrush	u		u	
<b>Mimic Thrushes</b>				
*Gray Catbird	r	r		
Northern Mockingbird	r	r	r	r
*Sage Thrasher	c	c	c	r
Brown Thrasher	r		r	r
<b>Wagtails and Pipits</b>				
American Pipit	c		c	o
<b>Starlings</b>				
*European Starling	a	c	a	u
<b>Waxwings</b>				
Bohemian Waxwing	o		o	o
*Cedar Waxwing	u	o	u	o

Common Name	Sp	S	F	W
<b>Wood Warblers</b>				
Tennessee Warbler	r		r	
Orange-crowned Warbler	c		c	
Nashville Warbler	u		u	
Northern Parula	r			
*Yellow Warbler	a	a	a	
Chestnut-sided Warbler	r		r	
Magnolia Warbler	r	r	r	
Cape May Warbler	r	r	r	
Black-throated Blue Warbler	r	r	r	
Yellow-rumped Warbler	a		a	r
Black-throated Gray Warbler	u		u	
Townsend’s Warbler	u		u	
Bay-breasted Warbler	r	r	r	
Blackpoll Warbler			r	
Black-and-white Warbler	r			
American Redstart	o		o	
Ovenbird	o			
Northern Waterthrush	r		r	
MacGillivray’s Warbler	u		u	
*Common Yellowthroat	c	a	c	
Wilson’s Warbler	c		c	
*Yellow-breasted Chat	u	u	u	
<b>Tanagers</b>				
Western Tanager	c		c	
<b>Sparrows and Towhees</b>				
Green-tailed Towhee	o	r	o	
Spotted Towhee	c		c	
American Tree Sparrow	r		u	u
*Chipping Sparrow	c	u	u	
*Brewer’s Sparrow	a	a	a	
Vesper Sparrow	c	c		
*Lark Sparrow	c	u	u	
*Black-throated Sparrow	r	r		
*Sage Sparrow	c	u	c	
*Savannah Sparrow	c	c	c	
Fox Sparrow	u		u	
*Song Sparrow	a	a	a	c
Lincoln’s Sparrow	u		u	
White-throated Sparrow	r		r	
Harris’s Sparrow	r		r	r



Common Name	Sp	S	F	W
White-crowned Sparrow	a		a	o
Golden-crowned Sparrow	u		u	
Dark-eyed Junco	c		c	u
Snow Bunting				r
<b>Cardinals, Grosbeaks and Allies</b>				
Rose-breasted Grosbeak	r			
*Black-headed Grosbeak	u		u	
*Lazuli Bunting	u	r	o	
<b>Blackbirds and Orioles</b>				
*Bobolink	u	u	u	
*Red-winged Blackbird	a	a	a	u
*Western Meadowlark	c	c	c	
*Yellow-headed Blackbird	a	a	a	r
*Brewer's Blackbird	a	a	a	u
*Great-tailed Grackle	r	r	r	r
*Brown-headed Cowbird	c	c	u	
*Bullock's Oriole	c	u	o	
<b>Finches</b>				
Gray-crowned Rosy-Finch			r	r
Pine Grosbeak			r	r
Purple Finch	r		r	
Cassin's Finch	r		r	r
*House Finch	c	u	c	r
Red Crossbill		r	r	
Common Redpoll				r
Pine Siskin	u		u	
*Lesser Goldfinch	u	u	u	
*American Goldfinch	u	u	u	o
Evening Grosbeak	u		o	o
<b>Old World Sparrows</b>				
*House Sparrow	u	u	u	u



*Marsh wren.* ©Roger Baker

Accidentals

The following birds have been seen five times or less on the refuge and are considered accidental:

- Pacific Loon
- Red-necked Grebe
- Tricolored Heron
- Mute Swan
- Emperor Goose
- Green-winged Teal (European)
- American Black Duck
- Oldsquaw
- Red-breasted Merganser
- White-tailed Kite
- Broad-winged Hawk
- Black Rail
- Common Moorhen
- Upland Sandpiper
- Red Knot
- Red Phalarope
- Long-tailed Jaeger
- Glaucous-winged Gull
- Sabine’s Gull
- White-winged Dove
- Snowy Owl
- Northern Pygmy-Owl
- Barred Owl
- Black Swift
- White-throated Swift
- Broad-tailed Hummingbird
- Red-headed Woodpecker
- White-headed Woodpecker

- Eastern Wood-Pewee
- Eastern Phoebe
- Tropical Kingbird
- Scissor-tailed Flycatcher
- Hutton’s Vireo
- Gray Jay
- Western Scrub-Jay
- Pinyon Jay
- Purple Martin
- Phainopepla
- Golden-winged Warbler
- Hermit Warbler
- Black-throated Warbler
- Blackburnian Warbler
- Yellow-throated Warbler
- Palm Warbler
- Prairie Warbler
- Prothonotary Warbler
- Worm-eating Warbler
- Kentucky Warbler
- Hooded Warbler
- Canada Warbler
- Summer Tanager
- Scarlet Tanager
- Indigo Bunting
- Painted Bunting
- Dickcissel
- Lark Bunting
- Lapland Longspur
- Common Grackle
- Streak-backed Oriole
- Baltimore Oriole



Whimbrels



**Mammals of  
Malheur  
National Wildlife  
Refuge**

This checklist includes 58 species which presently occur within Malheur National Wildlife Refuge. Also included are six species which occurred in the refuge historically, but are no longer present, and six species which may occur in the refuge, but have not been reported.

Malheur is a unique wetland oasis surrounded by Great Basin desert. Distinctive mammalian habitats include large fresh water marshes containing extensive stands of emergent aquatic vegetation; riparian areas bordering streams and canals; irrigated meadows; semi-arid grassland desert areas dominated by sagebrush and greasewood; and basaltic rimrocks.

This checklist can best be used with a field guide to mammals that provides identification and natural history information. Common and scientific names follow Revised Checklist of North American Mammals North of Mexico, 1979 (Jones, J.K., Jr., D.C. Carter, and H.H. Genoways. 1979. Occas. Pap. Mus. Texas Tech Univ., 62: 1-17).

**Status Symbols**

- c - Common; among the mammals you're most likely to see
- u - Uncommon; patience is required, but this mammal can usually be seen
- r - Rare; may not be present every year, a fortunate sighting
- h - Historically present, but no longer occurs
- p - Possibly occurs

**Habitat Symbols**

- d - Desert
- m - Marsh and Riparian Areas
- g - Grassland
- r - Rimrock
- w - Widespread



*Bobcat kitten at headquarters*  
© Robert McRea

# Mammals of Malheur NWR

Common Name	Status	Habitat
<b>Shrews</b>		
Preble's Shrew	u	m,g
Vagrant Shrew	c	g
Water Shrew	p	m
Merriam's Shrew	r	d
<b>Bats</b>		
Little Brown Myotis	c	w
Yuma Myotis	c	w
Long-eared Myotis	u	w
Long-legged Myotis	u	w
California Myotis	u	w
Small-footed Myotis	u	d
Silver-haired Bat	u	w
Western Pipistrelle	u	d
Big Brown Bat	c	w
Hoary Bat	c	w
Spotted Bat	p	d
Townsend's Big-eared Bat	u	w
Pallid Bat	u	w
Fringed Myotis	u	w
<b>Hares, Rabbits &amp; Pikas</b>		
Pika	p	r
Pygmy Rabbit	u	d
Nuttall's Cottontail	c	d
White-tailed Jackrabbit	r	d,g
Black-tailed Jackrabbit	c	d,g
<b>Rodents</b>		
Least Chipmunk	c	d
Yellow-bellied Marmot	u	r
White-tailed Antelope Squirrel	u	d
Townsend's Ground Squirrel	u	d
Belding's Ground Squirrel	c	g,d
Golden-mantled Ground Squirrel	u	r
Townsend's Pocket Gopher	c	g,d
Northern Pocket Gopher	u	g,d
Great Basin Pocket Mouse	c	d
Dark Kangaroo Mouse	u	d
Ord's Kangaroo Rat	c	d

Common Name	Status	Habitat
Great Basin Kangaroo Rat	c	d
Beaver	c	w
Western Harvest Mouse	c	w,g
Deer Mouse	c	w
Canyon Mouse	c	r
Northern Grasshopper Mouse	u	g,d
Desert Woodrat	c	r
Bushy-tailed Woodrat	c	r
Montane Vole	c	g
Long-tailed Vole	u	g
Sagebrush Vole	u	d
Muskrat	c	w
House Mouse	u	w
Western Jumping Mouse	h	m,g
Porcupine	c	w
<b>Carnivores</b>		
Coyote	c	w
Red Fox	p	w
Kit Fox	p	d
Black Bear	r	w
Grizzly Bear	h	w
Raccoon	c	w
Long-tailed Weasel	c	w
Mink	c	m
Wolverine	p	w
Badger	c	d,g
Western Spotted Skunk	u	w
Striped Skunk	u	w
River Otter	u	m
Mountain Lion	r	w
Lynx	h	w
Bobcat	u	w
<b>Ungulates</b>		
Elk	r	w
Mule Deer	c	w
Pronghorn	u	d,g
Bison	h	g
Mountain Sheep	h	r

**Malheur National Wildlife Refuge**  
**36391 Sodhouse Lane**  
**Princeton, OR 97721**  
**Telephone: 541/493-2612**

**U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service**  
**<http://www.fws.gov>**

**Refuge Information**  
**1 800/344 WILD**

**Visitors with disabilities may be  
reasonably accommodated upon  
request, and/or receive an alternative  
format publication.**



**January 2014**